

10/578,033

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 11, 16 21 and 22 are allowed while claims 18-20 would be allowable if appropriately amended. In accordance with this indication, the subject matter of claims 18 and 20, which was considered by the Examiner to be allowable, is respectively incorporated into independent claims 8 and 10. The Applicant believes that amended independent claims 8 and 10 are now in condition for allowance. As claims 9 and 13-15 depend, either directly or indirectly, from newly amended independent claims 8 and 10, those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

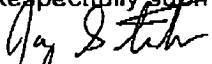
Claims 8-10 and 13-15 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Borland et al. '738 (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,738) in view of Krimmer et al. '977 (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,977). The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised obviousness rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant has amended claims 8 and 10 per the above to respectively include the subject matter of claims 18 and 20 which was considered by the Examiner to be allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised objections and rejections should be withdrawn at this time and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


Jay S. Franklin, Reg. No. 54,105
Customer No. 020210
Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.
112 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301-2931
Telephone 603-226-7490
Facsimile 603-226-7499
E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com